

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 A-01 OPR-02 SCS-03

SCA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SP-02

IO-10 AID-05 PRS-01 USIE-00 /074 W

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O 031330Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2357

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6424

FOR A/SY/FO AND RSS BEIRUT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, IR, AFSP

SUBJ: TERRORIST ATTACK ON EMBASSY VEHICLE

1. ON JULY 3, 1975 AT 1210 LOCAL TIME A FOREIGN SERVICE
LOCAL EMPLOYEE OF THE AMERICAN CONSULATE, HASSAN HOSSNAN WAS
SHOT AND KILLED BY TERRORISTS DURING AN ATTACK LAUNCHED ON AN
EMBASSY VEHICLE MAKING A REGULARLY SCHEDULED RUN BETWEEN THE
EMBASSY AND THE CONSULATE. HOSSNAN'S SLAYING APPARENTLY
WAS A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY AND IT IS BELIEVED THE
TERRORISTS ASSUMED HE WAS AN AMERICAN.

2. THE EMBASSY SHUTTLE WAS ONLY MINUTES AWAY FROM THE
EMBASSY ON A STREET NEXT TO THE COMPOUND WHEN A WHITE
PAYKAN CAR LICENSE PLATE 62742 TEHRAN B BACKED UP THE STREET IN
FRONT OF THE SHUTTLE AND POSITIONED ITSELF ON AN ANGLE
BLOCKING THE PATH OF THE SHUTTLE.

3. THE BLOCKING VEHICLE CONTAINED TWO MEN AND ONE WOMAN.
THE DRIVER OF THE PAYKAN WEARING THE SUMMER UNIFORM OF A
NATIONAL POLICEMAN AND ACCORDING TO ONE WITNESS HOLDING THE
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RANK OF LIEUTENANT APPROACHED THE DRIVERS' SIDE OF THE SHUTTLE

AND TOLD THE DRIVER AND THE OTHER PASSENGER ON THE LEFT SIDE, ANN TOMAKETIS, "AMERICAN EMBASSY VEHICLE STOP, STOP" (SPOKEN IN FARSI). THE DRIVER ASSUMED HE WAS BEING STOPPED FOR A TRAFFIC VIOLATION. THE POLICEMAN PULLED OUT HIS PISTOL AND HELD IT TO THE DRIVER'S HEAD AND REPEATED TO THE OCCUPANTS SEVERAL TIME NOT TO MOVE. THE SECOND MAN IN THE PAYKAN, DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES APPROACHED THE SHUTTLE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OPPOSITE THE DRIVER AND SHOT MR. HOSSNAN THROUGH THE RIGHT REAR WINDOW. ACCORDING TO WITNESSES (WHICH INCLUDED THREE IRANIAN FSLE'S IN A VEHICLE THAT HAD PULLED UP BEHIND THE SHUTTLE) THERE WERE TWO SERIES OF SHOTS WITH THE SECOND SERIES CONTAINING TWO SHOTS. DURING THE ATTACK, THE WOMAN REMAINED IN THE RIGHT FRONT SEAT OF THE PAYKAN. AFTER THE SHOOTING THE MAN IN THE POLICE UNIFORM RETURNED TO THE PAYKAN AND GOT INTO THE DRIVER'S SEAT. THE MAN IN THE CIVILIAN CLOTHES GOT INTO THE BACK SEAT AND FLED THE AREA.

4. THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TERRORISTS WERE GIVEN BY THE WITNESSES.

A. MAN IN POLICE UNIFORM ABOUT MID-TWENTIES, LIGHT COMPLEXION, SLIM ATHLETIC BUILD APPROX. 5'5"

B. MAN IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WEARING BEIGE SPORTS SHIRT AND LIGHT TAN TROUSERS. CLEAN SHAVEN, BLACK EYES, BLACK HAIR. STRAW COLORED COMPLEXION APPROX 5'3" AND WEARING SUNGLASSES.

C. NO DESCRIPTION OF WOMAN, OTHER THAN WEARING SCARF.

5. BASED ON ROUND FOUND IN CAR WEAPON USED APPEARS TO BE 9MM AUTOMATIC PISTOL. ACCORDING TO ONE WITNESS DESCRIPTION OF SOUND OF WEAPON, IT IS BELIEVED A SILENCER WAS USED. POLICEMAN DID NOT FIRE ANY ROUNDS.

6. STEPPED UP PROTECTIVE SECURITY MEASURES HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED. DETAILS WILL FOLLOW.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEHRAN06424
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750231-0029
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750785/aaaacyhe.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TERRORIST ATTACK ON EMBASSY VEHICLE
TAGS: ASEC, AFSP, IR
To: STATE BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006